

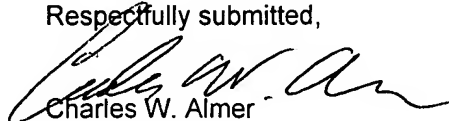
REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 6,410,464, issued to Menzies. Menzies discloses a finger-tearable laminate composite that is suitable for use in adhesive tapes. Claims 1 – 4 and 8 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,455,133, issued to Furukawa. Furukawa discloses an ink imaging layer formed on at least one surface of a base sheet that comprises a stretched styrenic resin. Finally, claims 1 – 4 and 8 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,102, issued to Fryd in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,807,937, issued to Matyjaszewski. Fryd discloses living free radical polymerization of alkene monomers through the use of persistent metal centered radicals. Matyjaszewski discloses processes for atom transfer radical polymerization.

In contrast to the cited art, the copolymer of the present invention, as amended, does not contain a chemical capping agent. Support for this limitation is found in the specification at page 10, line 10 through page 11, line 11 which describes the process for forming the copolymer and clearly indicates that no capping agent is utilized. The present invention is differentiated from the prior art (page 4, lines 17 – 20) which teaches the common process that involves a capping mechanism to stop the growing radical. The omission of a chemical capping agent produces a copolymer that is significantly different than and not possible from the disclosures of the prior art. The prior art compositions contain capping agents which must be removed from the composition for most commercial uses. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4 and 8 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Menzies and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Menzies and claims 1 – 4 and 8 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Furukawa and over Fryd in view of Matyjaszewski.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that the Examiner wishes to discuss, she is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles W. Almer".

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